

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 PC-04

AID-20 NIC-01 OMB-01 T-03 RSR-01 /112 W
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P R 091930 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 923

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 1494

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, NU

SUBJECT: WEEKLY POLITICAL SUMMARY

REF: MANAGUA 1377

1. THE FLURRY OF POLITICAL ACTIVITY LAST WEEK, WHICH CULMINATED IN DR. AGUERO'S REPLACEMENT ON THE NATIONAL GOVERNING COUNCIL, HAS BEEN FOLLOWED BY A RATHER TRANQUIL WEEK DURING WHICH THE AGUERO AND PAGUAGA FACTIONS OF THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY JOCKEYED FOR POSITION WHILE SOMOZA AND THE LIBERALS OBSERVED CONTENTEDLY FROM THE SIDELINES AND THE " OTHER OPPOSITION" TURNED ITS BACK ON THE WHOLE AFFAIR.

2. AGUERO FACTION SOURCES WIL CONTINUE TO EXUDE CONFIDENCE REPORT THAT THEY ARE PROCEEDING WITH PLANS FOR A PARTY COVENTION APRIL 1 AND AGUERO IS VISITING DEPARTMENTTS TO NAIL DOWN DELEGATES. AGUERO DEPUTY JOSE ROBELO WENT TO THE US THIS WEEK WITH THE INTENTION OF SIGNING A FINAL PURCHASE CONTRACT FOR AN OFFSET PRESS FOR A NEWSPAPER. THE PAGUAGA GROUP IS EQUALLY CONFIDENT OF ITS EVENTUAL COMPLETE TAKEOVER OF THE PCN AND PURPORTS TO HAVE INCREASING SUPPORT WITHIN THE PARTY DIRECTORATE AS WELL AS A
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MAJORITY OF THE ALREADY DESIGNATED CONVENTION DELEGATES. THE PAGUAGAISTAS OPENED A NATIONAL PARTY HEADQUARTERS IN MANAGUA IN AN ATTRACTIVE RESIDENCE DONATED BY A WEALTHY SUPPORTER. GOVERNING COUNCIL MEMBER PAGUAGA ATTENDED THE PUBLIC SESSIONS OF GENERAL SOMOZA'S NATIONAL EMERGENCY COMMITTEE FOR THE FIRST TIME MARCH 7. PAGUAGA WAS WARMLY WELCOMED BY SOMOZA AND THREE OF HIS AIDES WERE APPOINTED TO SPECIAL " COMMISSIONS" OF THE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE.

3. OPPOSITION LA PRENSA EMERGED AS A MUCH TAMER AND ALMOST STATESMANLIKE JOURNAL OF PUBLIC INFORMATION. ITS FEW BARBS WERE DELIVERED VERY SUBTLY AND IN A MUCH LIGHTER VEIN THAN BEFORE THE EARTHQUAKE. EDITOR PEDUB JOAQUIM CHAMORRO DECLARED A PLAGUE ON BOTH THE AGUERO AND PAGUAGA HOUSES OF THE PCN. COINING THE NEW PHRASE " PAGUAGA- SOMOCISMO", CHAMORRO OBSERVED THAT SOMOZA ST IN AGUERO AND NOW HE WAS PUTTING IN PAGUAGA.

4. POLITICAL INDEPENDENTS AND THE " OTHER OPPOSITION" TEND TO TURN THEIR BACK ON THE WHOLE AFFAIR WITHIN THE PCN, GENERALLY REGARDING IT AS A RATHER SORDID MESS FEATURING BETRAYAL AND FRATERNAL BLOOD LETTING. FEW MEMBERS OF THIS ELEMENT EXPRESS SYMPATHY FOR AGUERO, HOWEVER, AND THEIR MOST COMMONLY VOICED OPINION OF HIS FATE IS THAT, " THOSE WHO PACT WITH THE DEVIL CAN EXPECT TO END UP IN HELL."

5. GENERA) SOMOZA AND THE LIBERALS APPEAR VERY SATISFIED WITH THE NEW ARRANGEMENT WITH THE PAGUAGA GROUP AND RELIEVED TO BE RID OF AGUERO'S IRRITATING AND OBSTRUCTIVE PRESENCE ON THE GOVERNING COUNCIL. THE CONSTITUTENT ASSEMBLY DID NOT MEET THIS WEEK. THE LAW BANNING ALL POLLITICAL ACTIVITY HAS YET TO BE FINALLY APPROVED BY THE GOVERNING COUNCIL AND THERE ARE NOW RUMOURS THAT IT MAY BE REVISED.
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